

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES
SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT
SP-065-PHS-EDC**

Interpretation Of “Outbreak” In Reporting Requirements

This substantive policy is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes Section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

The purpose of this substantive policy statement is to notify the public how the Department interprets the term “outbreak” in reference to the reporting requirements in 9 A.A.C. 6, Article 2. A.A.C. R9-6-202 and Table 1 include outbreak reporting requirements for health care providers (HCPs) and administrators of health care institutions (HCIs) or correctional facilities (CFs). A.A.C. R9-6-203 and Table 2 include outbreak reporting requirements for administrators of schools, child care establishments (CCEs), and shelters.

A.A.C. R9-6-101(36) defines “outbreak” as follows:

“Outbreak” means an unexpected increase in incidence of a disease, infestation, or sign or symptom of illness.

Although the term “outbreak” is defined in A.A.C. R9-6-101(36), the Department believes that persons who are obligated to report outbreaks will benefit from the Department’s providing its interpretation of when an outbreak exists for each of the diseases and conditions for which outbreak reporting is required. As the definition of “outbreak” states, an outbreak signifies an unexpected increase in incidence. What may be considered an outbreak in one setting or in one season may not be considered an outbreak in another. The Department does not expect an outbreak report when an increased incidence of a disease or sign or symptom of illness is an expected and predictable seasonal increase or when the number of cases diagnosed or detected in a particular setting is consistent with the volume of such cases expected in that setting.

The following table provides the Department’s interpretation of “outbreak” as related to each disease or condition for which outbreak reporting is required and shows which persons are required to report each type of outbreak under 9 A.A.C. 6, Article 2.

Disease/Condition	Outbreak Means:	Reporting by HCPs, HCIs, and CFs	Reporting by Schools, CCEs, and Shelters
Amebiasis	Diagnosis or detection of 2 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 2-week period	X	
Campylobacteriosis	Diagnosis or detection of 3 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 1-week period	X	

Conjunctivitis: acute	An unexpected increase based on clinical or professional judgment and experience	X	X
Cryptosporidiosis	Diagnosis or detection of 2 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 1-week period	X	
Diarrhea, Nausea, or Vomiting	An unexpected increase based on clinical or professional judgment and experience	X	X
Giardiasis	An unexpected increased based on clinical or professional judgment and experience	X	
Hepatitis A	Diagnosis or detection of 3 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 2-week period	X	
Hepatitis E	Diagnosis or detection of 2 or more cases within a 60-day period	X	
Salmonellosis	Diagnosis or detection of 3 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 1-week period	X	
Scabies	Diagnosis or detection of 3 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 2-week period	X	X
Shigellosis	Diagnosis or detection of 3 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 1-week period	X	
Streptococcal Group A infection	Diagnosis or detection of 3 or more cases, not from the same household or family, within a 1-week period		X
Taeniasis	Diagnosis or detection of 2 or more cases within a 90-day period	X	
<i>Vibrio</i> infection	Diagnosis or detection of 2 or more cases within a 30-day period	X	
Yersiniosis	Diagnosis or detection of 2 or more cases within a 2-week period	X	

Effective January 14, 2005
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